

IN THE CLAIMS:

Pl as cancell claims 10-26, without disclaimer of this subject matter or prejudice to reassertion in this or a continuing application.

Please amend claims 1-9 to read:

1. (amended) An isolated polypeptide or a derivative, homologue, analogue, or functional equivalent thereof wherein said polypeptide is obtainable from a species of *Mycobacterium* and which polypeptide is immunointeractive with sera from a human, animal or avian species exposed to said species of *Mycobacterium* or its relative or antigenic parts thereof but which polypeptide is substantially not immunointeractive with sera from a human, animal, or avian species not previously exposed to said species of *Mycobacterium* or its relative or its antigenic parts.

2. (amended) The isolated polypeptide according to claim 1 wherein the species of *Mycobacterium* is selected from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Mycobacterium avium*, *Mycobacterium microti*, *Mycobacterium leprae*, *Mycobacterium lepraemurium*, *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*, *Mycobacterium ulcerans*, *Mycobacterium marinum*, *Mycobacterium smegmatis*, *Mycobacterium intracellulare*, *Mycobacterium xenopi*, *Mycobacterium chelonae*, *Mycobacterium fortuitum*, *Mycobacterium farcinogenes*, *Mycobacterium flavum*, *Mycobacterium haemophilum*, *Mycobacterium kansasii*, *Mycobacterium phlei*, *Mycobacterium*

scrofulaceum, *Mycobacterium senegalense*, *Mycobacterium simiae*,
Mycobacterium thermoresistibile, and *Mycobacterium xenopi*.

3. (amended) The isolated polypeptide according to claim 2 wherein the species of *Mycobacterium* is *M. tuberculosis*.

4. (amended) An isolated polypeptide or a derivative, homologue, analogue, or functional equivalent thereof wherein said polypeptide is obtainable from *M. tuberculosis* or a related organism and which polypeptide is immunointeractive with sera from a human previously exposed to *M. tuberculosis* or an antigenic extract therefrom but is substantially not immunointeractive with human sera not previously exposed to *M. tuberculosis* or an antigenic extract thereof.

5. (amended) The isolated polypeptide according to claim 4 wherein the human exposed to *M. tuberculosis* has active pulmonary or extra-pulmonary tuberculosis.

6. (amended) The isolated polypeptide according to claim 4 or 5 wherein the polypeptide has a molecular weight of from about 5 kDa to about 100 kDa.

7. (amended) The isolated polypeptide according to claim 6 wherein the molecular weight is selected from about 10 to 20 kDa, 28 to 38 kDa, 38 to 48 kDa, 53 to 63 kDa, and 55 to 65 kDa.

8. (amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, or an amino acid sequence having at least 60% similarity to any one of said sequences.

9. (amended) An isolated polypeptide encoded by a nucleotide sequence selected from SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, or a nucleotide sequence having at least 60% similarity to any one of said sequences or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing to any one of said sequences under low stringency conditions at 42°C.
